

PLANESWALKERS

GATHERING FORCES

part I



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BASED ON CHARACTERS BY ALEKSI BRICLOT, VOLKAN BAGA, JASON CHAN, AND BRADY DOMMERMUTH



ARE YOU A
COWARD? WHY
WON'T YOU
STRIKE?

I WON'T
FIGHT YOU.

DO YOU KNOW
HOW MANY FIGHTS
I'VE WON? YOU
INSULT ME.



THEY'LL KILL YOU
FOR WASTING
THEIR COIN.

THEY CAN TRY, BUT I AM
NOT WORRIED BY A CROWD
OF WEAK AND ANGRY MEN.



THIS ONE IS NOT OF URBORG ...
NOT OF THIS PLANE ...

YOU SHOULD HAVE
STAYED OUT OF
THE PITS!

THE SCENT OF
UNFAMILIAR EARTH.

PLANESWALKERS.

GLADIATOR! LAY DOWN
YOUR WEAPON...

HRRGH!

THE WORLD
HAS NO LOVE
OF COWARDS.

SHE CHOSE A
GLANCING BLOW.
WHY?

THAT SYMBOL!

WHO ARE YOU? ARE
YOU ONE OF THEM?





WHAT HAVE YOU BECOME?
THERE'S NO HONOR IN THIS . . .



HOW DO YOU KNOW
THIS SYMBOL? I NEED
TO TALK TO YOU!



LET ME GO, AJANI!
YOU DON'T KNOW
WHAT HE IS!



LADY ELSPETH, WHAT HAVE
YOU DONE TO YOURSELF?



OLD FRIEND,
PLEASE STAND.



HOW DID YOU KNOW WHERE I WAS?

I SPOKE WITH YOUR FRIEND, ARAN. WHY URBORG, OF ALL PLACES?

I'D SPENT TIME HERE IN MY YOUTH, BEFORE I FOUND BANT. I KNEW WHAT TO EXPECT.



THERE ARE BETTER PLACES THAN THIS.

PERHAPS, BUT I AM WEARY OF SEARCHING AND DISAPPOINTMENT.



ALARA IS BROKEN, BUT IT'S NOT LOST. YOU COULD BE A GREAT AID AND COMFORT.

BANT IS LOST FOREVER. ALARA IS NOT MY HOME.

VALERON'S TWELVE TREES STILL STAND. BANT HAS BECOME PART OF SOMETHING LARGER.

WHAT'S LEFT OF BANT WILL BE OVERRUN, CONSUMED BY THE UNDEAD. YOU KNOW THAT.



THAT IS NOT INEVITABLE. EVIL DOESN'T ALWAYS TRIUMPH.



BANT CAN STILL BE SAVED. COME BACK. TOGETHER, WE ARE STRONGER.

I CANNOT. I WILL NOT LEAD THEM. AND I CAN'T FACE THE EXPECTATION IN THEIR EYES.



YOUR LACK OF HOPE
SADDENS ME, BUT YOU HAVE
TO MAKE YOUR OWN WAY.

BEFORE I GO, I HAVE
SOMETHING FOR YOU.



MY SWORD.



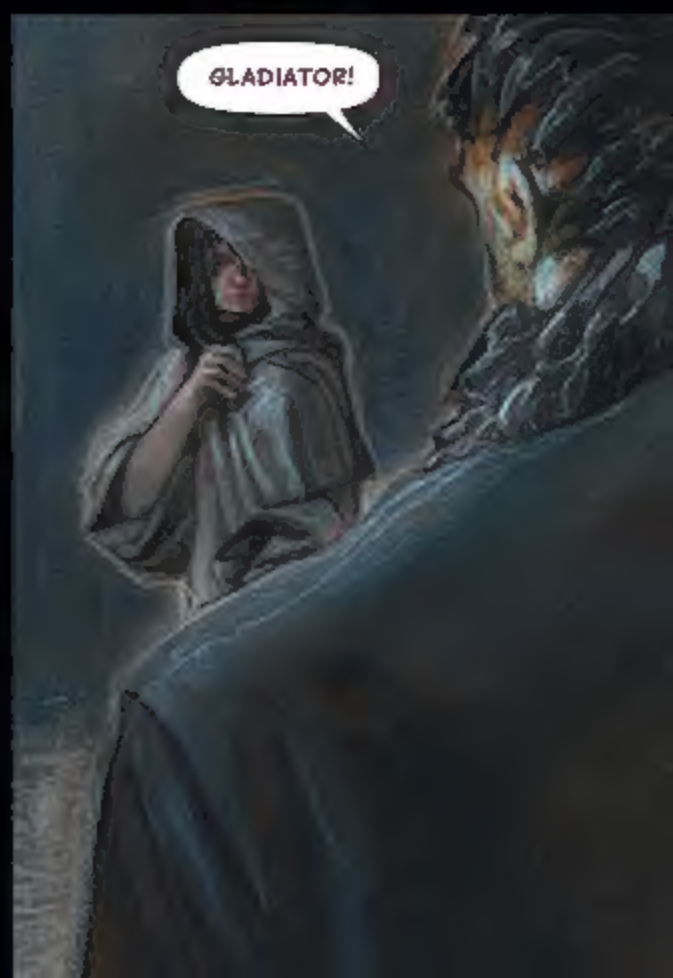
OH, AJANI.
THIS IS SUCH
A KINDNESS.



YOU STILL
DESERVE THEM,
MY LADY.



AJANI WAS WRONG.
NO ONE DESERVES
ANYTHING.



GLADIATOR!



TELL ME WHAT
YOU KNOW
OF THIS!



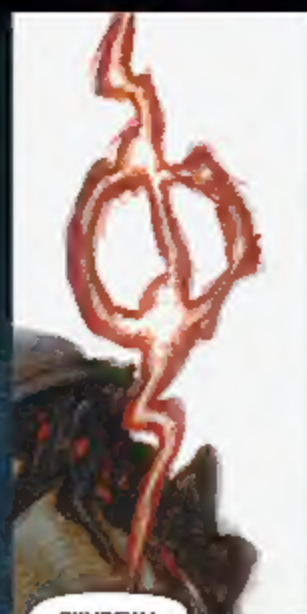
I OWE YOU
NOTHING.
NOW STEP BACK
OR I'LL CUT THAT
CORRUPTION
FROM YOU.

I AM NOT CORRUPTED.
MY NAME IS KOTH AND
I AM A HARBINGER.



THEN WHY DO
YOU BEAR SUCH
AN EVIL MARK!

IT'S A PROMISE TO
MYSELF. I WILL SAVE
MY PEOPLE.



PHYREXIA.



IT HAS TAKEN HOLD ON MY
PLANE, IF YOU KNOW WHAT
THAT MEANS, THEN YOU KNOW
WHY I HAVE TO STOP THEM.





GATHERING FORCES

part 2



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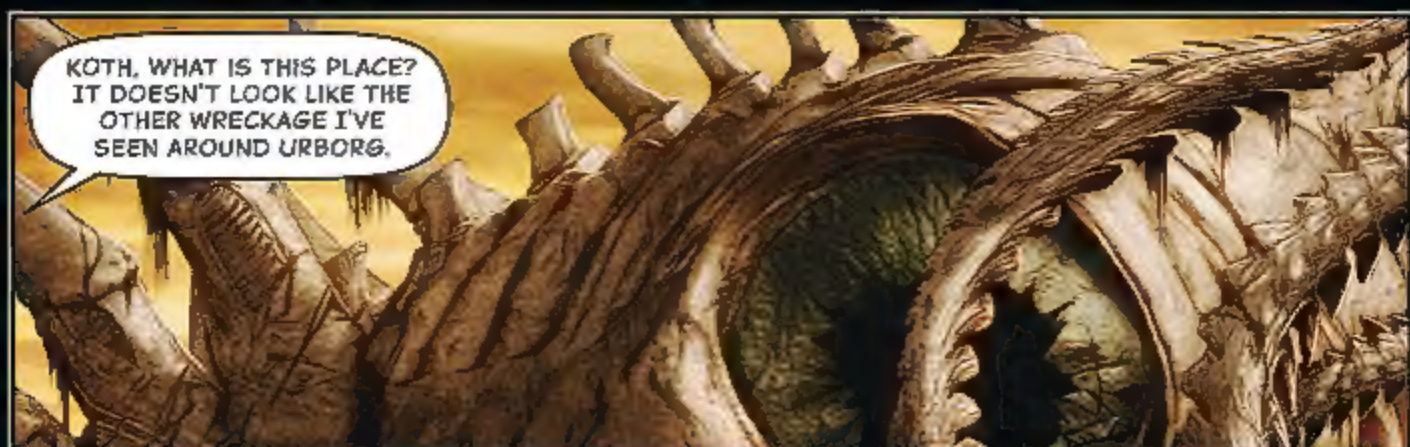
LETTERING BY BOB JORDAN

ART DIRECTION BY JEREMY JARVIS

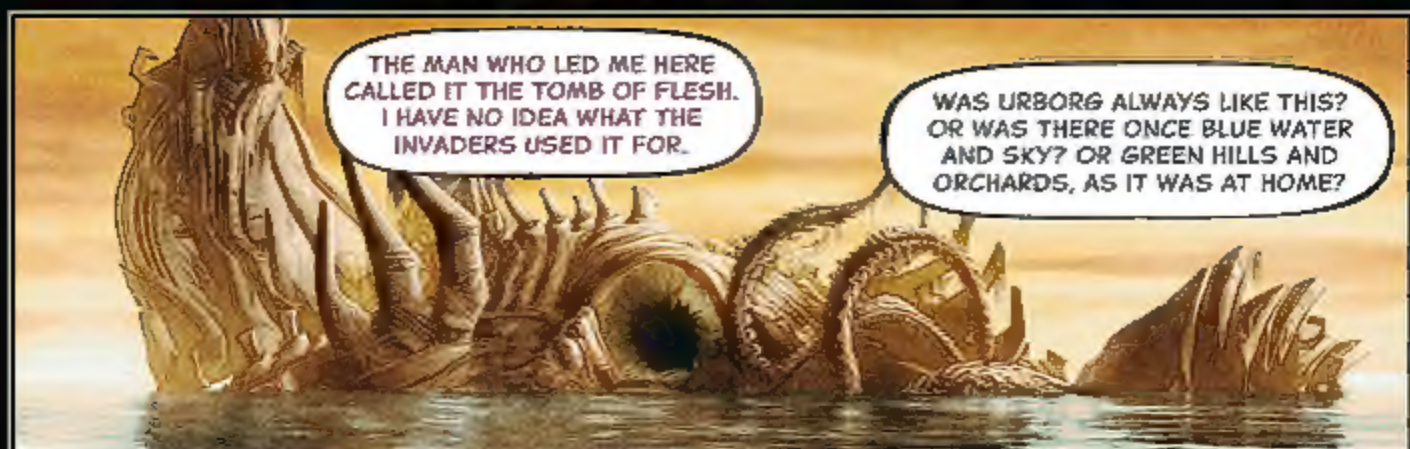
STORY BY JENNA HELLAND, BRADY DOMMERMUTH, AND DOUG BEYER

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KOTH, WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THE
OTHER WRECKAGE I'VE
SEEN AROUND URBORG.



THE MAN WHO LED ME HERE
CALLED IT THE TOMB OF FLESH.
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THE
INVADERS USED IT FOR.

WAS URBORG ALWAYS LIKE THIS?
OR WAS THERE ONCE BLUE WATER
AND SKY? OR GREEN HILLS AND
ORCHARDS, AS IT WAS AT HOME?



YOUR HOME SOUNDS LIKE
A WONDERFUL PLACE.

IT WAS . . . IT WAS.

WHAT ABOUT YOU?
YOU NEVER SAY MUCH
ABOUT YOUR HOME.

IT'S A PLANE OF METAL.
YOU MIGHT THINK IT COLD,
BUT LIFE IS VIBRANT THERE.
THE EARTH SPEAKS LOUDLY.

IN BANT, THE DARKNESS
CREPT UP ON US, DEFACING
OUR WORLD BEFORE WE KNEW
WHAT WAS HAPPENING.

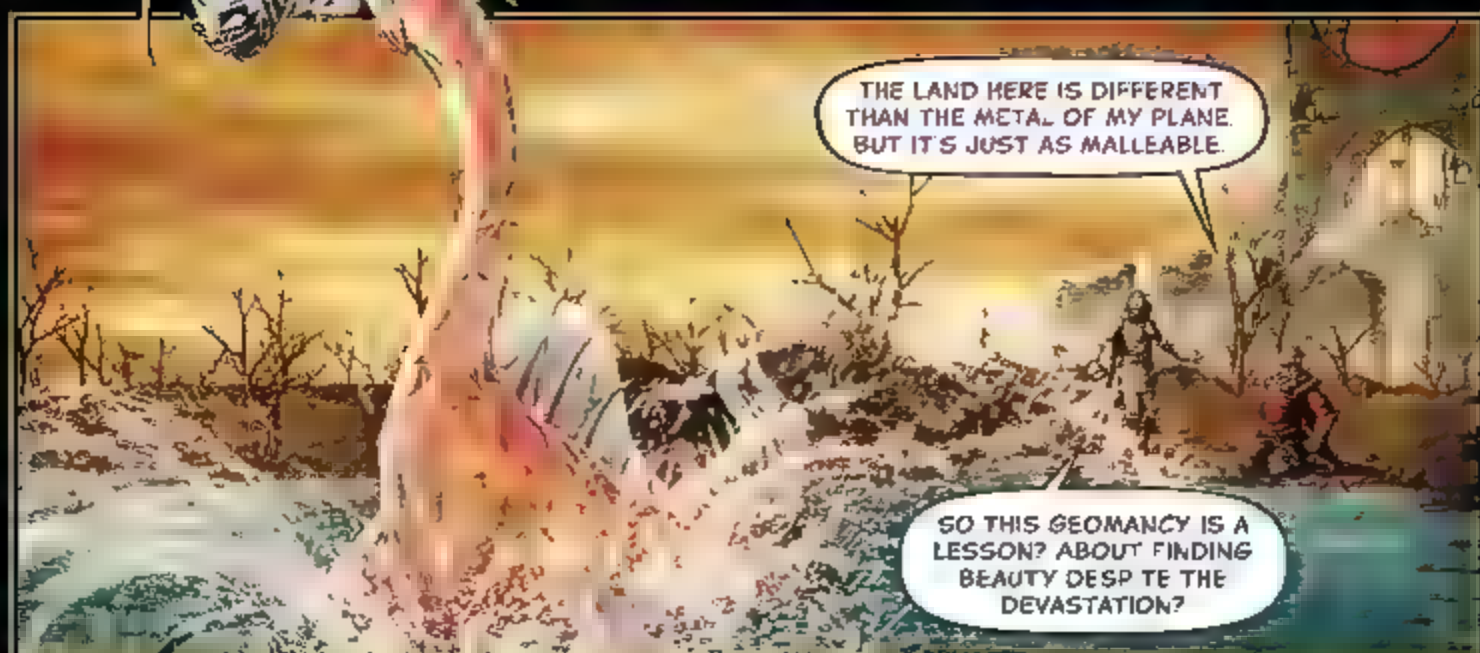
IT WILL NEVER
BE THE SAME. . .





CHANGE IS DIFFICULT
TO WITNESS. BUT IT
CAN LEAD TO GREATER
THINGS. WATCH.

DEEP IN THE GROUND
ARE TREASURES
ROCKS FORMED IN
THE SMOKE'S FORGE



THE LAND HERE IS DIFFERENT
THAN THE METAL OF MY PLANE.
BUT IT'S JUST AS MALLEABLE.

SO THIS GEOMANCY IS A
LESSON? ABOUT FINDING
BEAUTY DESPITE THE
DEVASTATION?



YOUR WORDS,
NOT MINE

WATCH THE SEABIRDS,
KOTH. THEY'LL FLEE
FROM HERE. THERE'S NO
WAY TO MAKE A HOME
IN A PLACE LIKE THIS.

FOR THE SAKE OF
MY PEOPLE. I HOPE
YOU'RE WRONG

ARE YOU PLANNING TO
RIDE THAT MONSTER
ACROSS THE WATER?

NOT A CHANCE



HUH, NOT BAD. I REALLY
DIDN'T WANT TO TAKE A
SWIM IN THAT LAKE

AND YOU DON'T LOOK
PARTICULARLY BUOYANT



AFTER YOU, LADY ELSPETH



ROCKS AREN'T GOING
TO BE MUCH HELP IN
THERE NOW IT'S MY
TURN TO BE USEFUL



AS I THOUGHT,
EMPTY AS NIGHT

HE CAN'T
SEE





ELSPETH!
WHAT DID
YOU SEE?

THAT IMAGE
IN EVERY DARK
PLACE



I DESERTED THEM. WHEN
THEY NEEDED ME MOST
I LEFT THEM TO DIE.

I'M SORRY I DIDN'T KNOW
YOUR MEMORIES OF PHYREXIA
WERE SO . . . SHARP.



COME WITH ME TO THE
HEROES MEMORIAL. WE'LL
HONOR THE WARRIORS WHO
DEFEATED PHYREXIA. BESIDES,
THERE'S SOMETHING YOU
NEED TO SEE.

NO. JUST LET ME .

YOU'RE BOUND BY HONOR
I CAN SENSE THAT

YOU DON'T KNOW
ANYTHING.

COME WITH ME, AND
THEN WE'LL SEE



THE HEROES' MEMORIAL
URBORG DOMINARIA


THE ACOLYTES WHO TEND THIS PLACE ARE HELPING ME BECAUSE THEY ARE VIGILANT AGAINST THE SPREAD OF PHYREXIA

HAS THE CORRUPTION
SPREAD ACROSS
YOUR HOME?

I'M HOPEFUL IT
HASN'T GONE
BEYOND THE
MOUNTAINS

HOLD OUT YOUR
HAND. I HAVE A
GIFT FOR YOU

STRENGTH COMES FROM THE MOST
UNEXPECTED PLACES. MY LADY TRAP
YOUR FEAR IN THESE, DON'T LET YOUR
PAST IMPRISON YOUR FUTURE.




I HEAR YOU, KOTH. BUT THE PAST'S NOT EASILY DISCARDED. THAT'S THE VERY REASON WE'RE HERE, ISN'T IT?

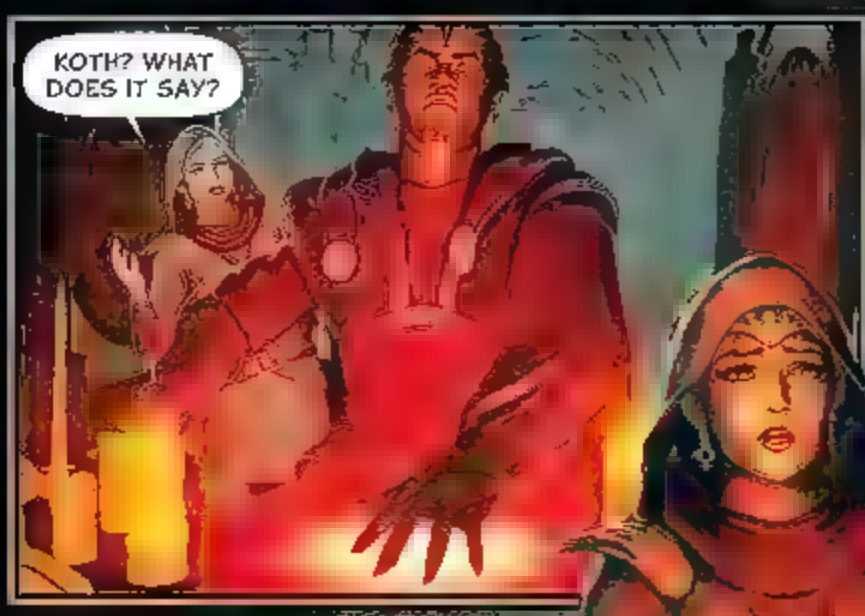
THE ACOLYTES ARE SUSPICIOUS, AND THE R HELP WAS NOT EASY TO OBTAIN. WE'RE HERE BECAUSE THIS IS THE ONLY WAY THEY WOULD GIVE ME THE INFORMATION THAT I NEED.



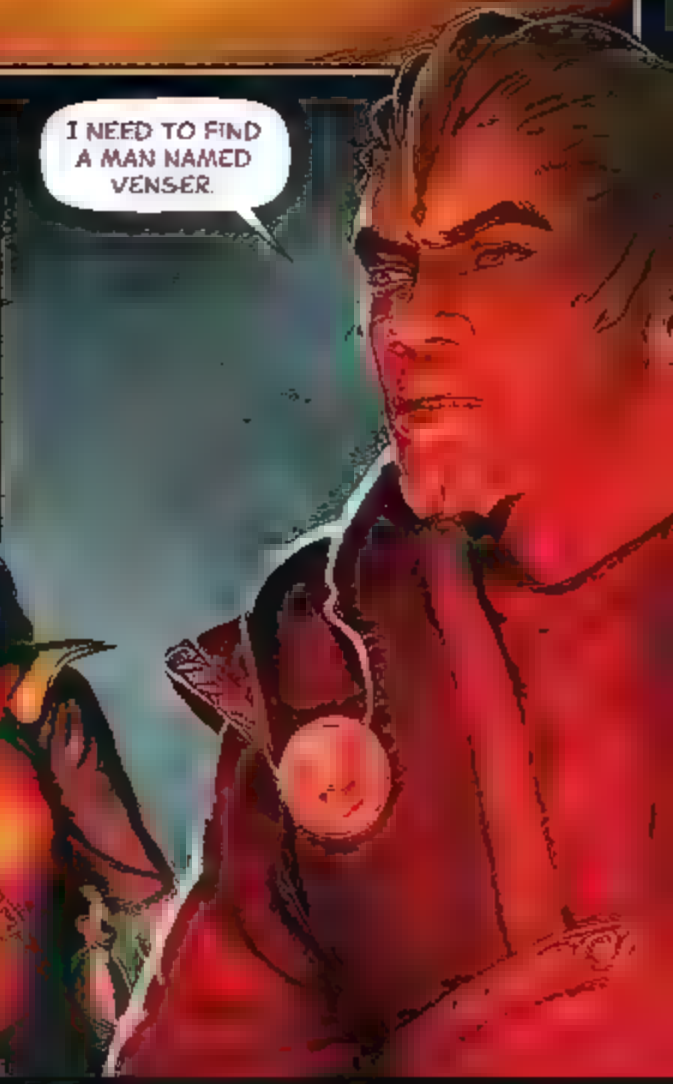
HOW DOES IT WORK?



THE STONE WILL SHAPE THE WAX, AND THEN THE SPELL WILL DISPERSE.



KOTH? WHAT DOES IT SAY?



I NEED TO FIND A MAN NAMED VENSER.

PLANESWALKERS

GATHERING FORCES

part 3



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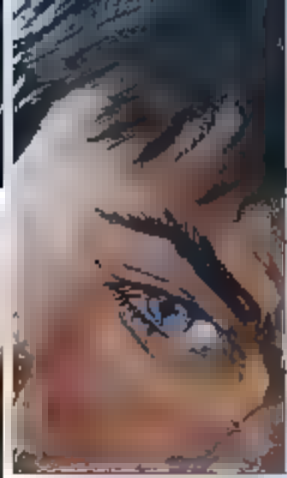
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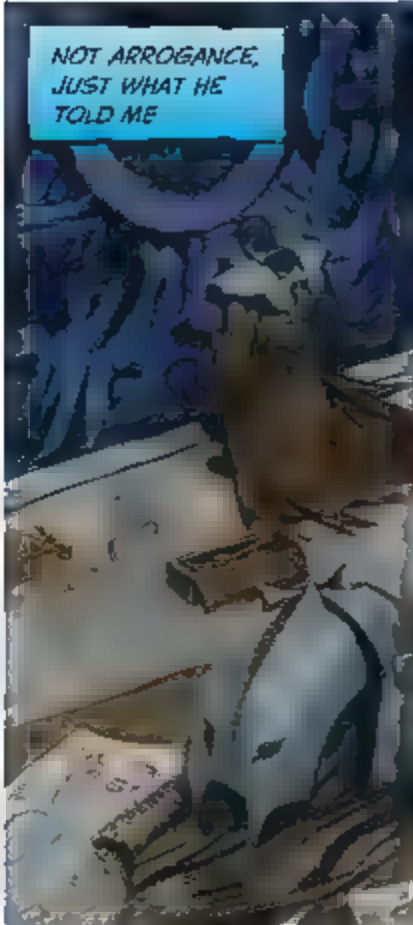
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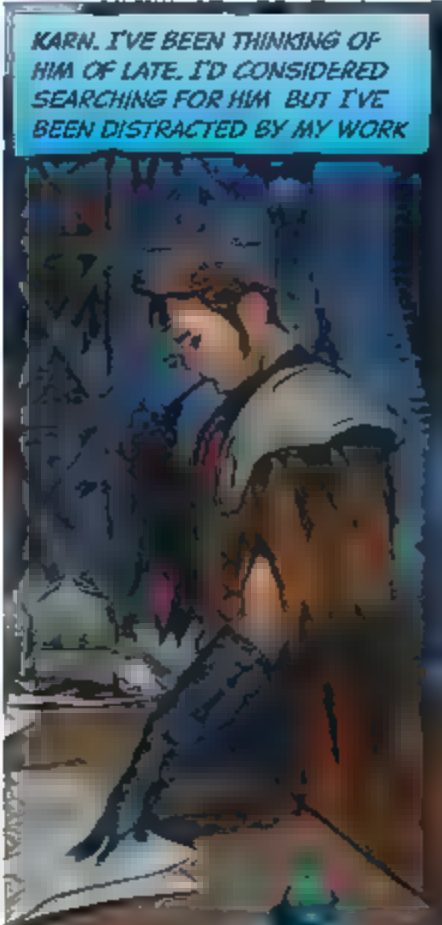
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN
GOOD WITH ARTIFICE



KARN TOLD ME THAT IN ALL
HIS TRAVELS, HE'D NEVER MET
ANYONE AS GIFTED AS I AM



NOT ARROGANCE,
JUST WHAT HE
TOLD ME



KARN, I'VE BEEN THINKING OF
HIM OF LATE. I'D CONSIDERED
SEARCHING FOR HIM, BUT I'VE
BEEN DISTRACTED BY MY WORK



MY WORK HAS OCCUPIED
MY EVERY THOUGHT
IT IS A RIDDLE OF THE
HIGHEST CALIBER



A RIDDLE WITH THE POTENTIAL TO
SEND SHOCKWAVES THROUGHOUT
THE INFINITE PLANES.

THE WINDGRACE ACOLYTES, THOSE DIE-HARD SCIONS OF THE OLD DAYS. THEY BEAR THE MEMORY OF THE WAR LIKE SOLDIERS BEAR BATTLE SCARS

MY WORK IS WELL KNOWN TO THE ACOLYTES. I TRIED TO COLLABORATE WITH THEM, TO WORK TOGETHER FOR A COMMON END.

AND INSTEAD, THEY JOINED FORCES WITH HIM

WELCOME. THE ACOLYTES SAID I SHOULD EXPECT SPECIAL GUESTS.

ELSPETH TIREL? I'M PLEASED TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE AND KOTH OF MIRRODIN. I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT AN HONOR IT IS TO MEET YOU.



I KNEW THE TERRIBLE BEAUTY OF MY WORK. BUT I WOULD HAVE CONTAINED IT IN THE POWER OF PURE ARTIFICE. I WILL DO IT I WILL MASTER THIS PUZZLE

IT'S NOT OFTEN I GET TO MEET OTHER PLANESWALKERS. COME IN LET ME SHOW YOU AROUND



LATER THAT AFTERNOON

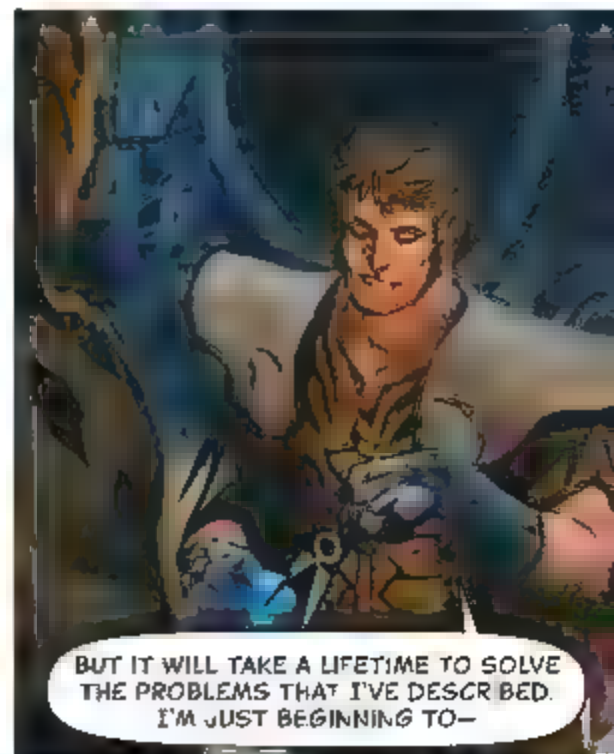
SO WITH THIS SHIP YOU COULD REMOVE INHABITANTS FROM A PLANE AND TAKE THEM SOMEWHERE ELSE?

ADAPT PHYREXIAN TECHNOLOGY
SEND SHIPS BETWEEN PLANES.



PEOPLE WHO WEREN'T PLANESWALKERS?

WELL, YES



BUT IT WILL TAKE A LIFETIME TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS THAT I'VE DESCRIBED. I'M JUST BEGINNING TO—



YOU'RE BLIND, HUMAN. DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TOYING WITH? YOU'RE LIKE A CHILD PLAYING WITH FORCES HE CAN'T COMPREHEND.


!?

A large, muscular, orange-skinned creature with a red cape and glowing orange markings on its chest is attacking a man in a brown robe. The man is being thrown or pushed back. The background is a bright blue sky with some clouds.


KOTH! STOP!

IT'S ARROGANT FOOLS LIKE YOU WHO DESTROY WORLDS. HAVE YOU NO RESPECT FOR THE DEAD? NO LOVE OF THE EARTH BENEATH YOU?

ARRGH... GET YOUR HANDS OFF ME...


A close-up of Koth's face, showing his orange skin, large eyes, and a menacing expression. He has a red mark on his forehead.

YOUR LITTLE DREAM WOULD BRING EVERY EVIL TO EVERY PLANE. I SHOULD KILL YOU—

A close-up of the man's face, showing him looking up at Koth with a desperate expression. He has dark hair and is wearing a brown robe.

—BUT I NEED YOUR HELP. BY THE GREAT RED SUN, YOU WILL SAVE US, OR I WILL KILL YOU.

MY HELP? H-H-HOW CAN I HELP YOU?


Three people are in a room. A man in a brown robe is kneeling and holding a helmet. A woman in a white robe is standing and looking at him. Another man in a brown robe is standing and looking at the man with the helmet.

WHAT'S GOING ON!

HE'S A MANIAC. I NEED A PLAN TO GET HIM OUT OF HERE.

PUT THIS ON.

MY HELMET. SURE, SURE, WHATEVER YOU SAY.

A man in a brown robe is standing and looking at a woman in a white robe. The woman is holding a helmet. The man is wearing a brown robe and a blue sash. The woman is wearing a white robe and a blue sash. The man is holding a helmet. The woman is holding a helmet.

ALL RIGHT. NOW JUST STAY CALM AND TELL ME WHAT YOU WANT.





DON'T DELAY OR
YOU'LL RUN OUT OF AIR.
DON'T WALK ANYWHERE
ELSE, OR YOU DIE.

I'LL FOLLOW
YOUR ÆTHER PATH
AND REMOVE THE
MASK AS SOON
AS WE ARRIVE.



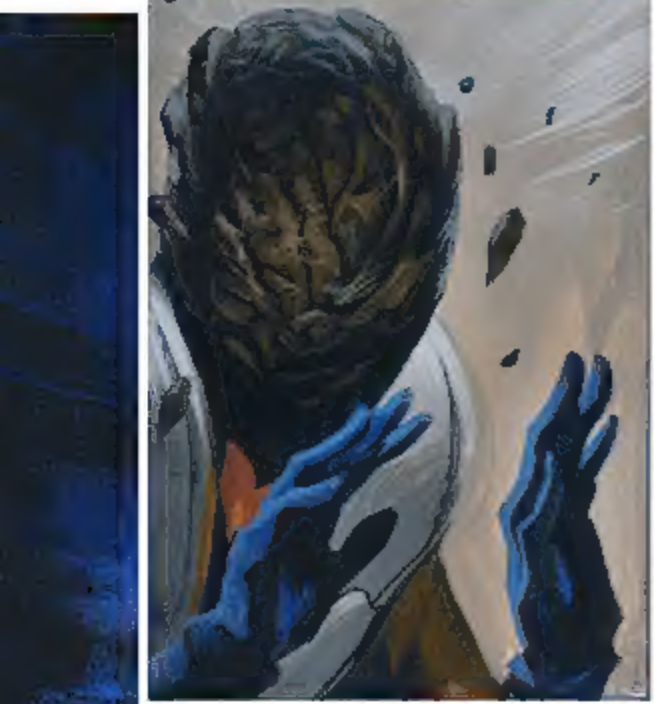
YOU'RE
ABDUCTING
HIM! WHY?

I HAVE NO
CHOICE.

BUT ON MY OWN TERMS.
NOT ORDERED BY A MADMAN.



I ALWAYS WANTED TO SEE
MIRRODIN—KARN'S WORLD OF
MATHEMATICAL PERFECTION.



BUT RATIONAL THOUGHT REQUIRES
BREATH, AND THAT WAS BECOMING
A PRECIOUS COMMODITY.



HE FIRED THE FIRST SALVO. HE WAS THE
AGGRESSOR. THAT WAS NOT SOMETHING
I WOULD FORGIVE AND FORGET...

